

Tom Horne
Superintendent

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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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ARIZONA SCHOOLS CHIEF TOM HORNE ANNOUNCES THE FIRST STATEWIDE HISTORY EDUCATION INITIATIVE IN COOPERATION WITH THE HISTORY CHANNEL®

Phase One Provides The History Channel Multimedia Classroom — to Every Public Middle and High School in Arizona — Customized to Align with the State's Rigorous Social Studies Standards and Supported by Teacher Training

Phoenix, October 17, 2006— State Superintendent of Public Instruction **Tom Horne** announced today that in recognition of Arizona's Social Studies Standards—which are among the most rigorous in the nation—**The History Channel®** will partner with the Arizona Department of Education to implement a first-of-its-kind statewide History Education Initiative. The comprehensive, integrated plan will be developed in four phases and eventually will reach every student, K-12, in the state. **Dr. Libby Haight O'Connell**, Chief Historian of The History Channel, joined Superintendent Horne for the announcement of Phase One of this innovative initiative.

"I am tremendously gratified that The History Channel has recognized the hard work that it has taken to strengthen Arizona's history standards," said Superintendent Horne. "When I took office in 2003, one of my first goals, which was accomplished within a year, was to make sure students in high school revisited important topics such as the Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution, Revolutionary War, the ideas on which this country was founded and the Greco-Roman basis for western civilization. For too long, these subjects were covered only in the middle school years when many students are not mature enough to absorb these concepts in depth."

During the first phase, **The History Channel Multimedia Classroom**, which provides robust, multimedia content focusing on American History beginning with the founding of the United States, will be distributed to *every* public middle and high school History and Social Studies teacher in Arizona. The curricula will be correlated closely with Arizona standards and will be made available pending the development of funding.

The History Channel Multimedia Classroom is a set of interactive teaching tools featuring award-winning program content from The History Channel. The lesson

plans are correlated to Arizona's Social Studies standards and are easy to use for teachers, parents, and students. Each lesson plan combines short clips of original programming with primary source documents, discussion questions, extended activities, maps and images, and suggestions for further research and reading. The lesson plan components, in CD-ROM format, are paired with DVD versions of the full-length programs on which they are based.

"The History Channel is honored to partner with the Arizona Department of Education and to support the State of Arizona's demonstrated commitment to high-quality history education," remarked Dr. O'Connell. "Arizona's standards establish a benchmark for the rest of the country. The History Channel Multimedia Classroom, with compelling content aligned to those standards and formatted to engage all learners, can contribute to students' overall academic success in Arizona. We look forward to working with Superintendent Horne, his staff and history teachers across the state."

The Multimedia Classroom resources from The History Channel will be accompanied by guidelines for teachers on its alignment with Arizona standards. In addition, The History Channel will provide specialized training and support for teachers, including workshops and video instruction provided via the existing Arizona IDEAL online education portal.

The History Channel Multimedia Classroom is designed to support cross-curricular learning, using the study of history to illustrate the importance of language, arts, citizenship and science. The Multimedia Classroom contains short documentary clips designed to engage students and to help them comprehend content as well as the language used in presenting that content. The video presentations are reinforced with critical thinking questions, vocabulary and primary source passages, creating a powerful and cohesive teaching tool for all students, including challenged learners and those whose second language is English.

The funding requirements for this program total \$3.7 million to ensure that all district and charter social studies classrooms in grades 7-12 receive The History Channel Multimedia Classroom and companion resources.

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